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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/361,576 07/27/99 STOCKWELL

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EXAMINER

HSU, G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1627

DATE MAILED:

07/17/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/361,576

Applicant(s)

St. ckwell et al.

Examiner

Grace Hsu, Ph.D.

Group Art Unit

1627



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 11, 2000

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1035 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire one month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, 14, 18, 19, and 22-25 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☒ Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, 14, 18, 19, and 22-25 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

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DETAILED ACTION

Please Note: In an effort to enhance communication with our customers and reduce processing time, Group 1627 is running a Fax Response Pilot for Written Restriction Requirements. A dedicated Fax machine is in place to receive your responses. The Fax number is (703) 305-3704. A Fax cover sheet is attached to this Office Action for your convenience. We encourage your participation in this Pilot program. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Jyothisna Venkat, Supervisory Examiner at Jyothisna.Venkat@uspto.gov or 703-308-2439. Thank you in advance for allowing us to enhance our customer service. Please limit the use of this dedicated Fax number to responses to Written Restrictions.

1. A Preliminary Amendment and Response to Restriction Requirement received on May 11, 2000 was entered as Paper No. 6.
2. Applicants election of Group I, claims 1-25, in Paper No. 6 is acknowledged. Because applicants did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a).
3. Canceled 26-38 are withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner under 37 C. F. R. 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention of Groups II-VI, the requirement having not been traversed in Paper No. 6.
4. Claims 1-2, 5-6, 9-10, 13-14, 18-19 and 22-25 are pending and claims 3-4, 7-8, 11-12, 15-17 and 20-21 have been canceled in the instant application.

Election of Species

5. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention. Applicants are required to further elect from the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention for each of the claims identified below:

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<u>Species A</u>	<u>claims no.</u>	<u>The method of claims 1 and/or 2, wherein the step of introducing an assay system capable of under going one chemical or biological reaction selected from the group consisting of:</u>
(1)	claims 9 and 22	nucleic acid synthesis
(2)	claims 9 and 22	protein phosphorylation
(3)	claims 9 and 22	protein cleavage
(4)	claims 9 and 22	peptide cleavage
(5)	claims 9 and 22	carbohydrate addition
(6)	claims 9 and 22	carbohydrate cleavage
(7)	claims 9 and 22	protein cleavage
(8)	claims 9 and 22	carbohydrate addition
(9)	claims 9 and 22	carbohydrate cleavage
(10)	claims 9 and 22	metabolism of cellular components
(11)	claims 9 and 22	synthesis of cellular components
(12)	claims 9 and 22	intracellular biochemical reactions
(13)	claims 9 and 22	combinations thereof need to be identified

Each of the species identified above represents patentably distinct subject matter. In the instant case, those species each involve different biological and/or chemical modes of action, including different structures, components and involving different reactions and steps, etc. Therefore, those species involve different patentability and enablement issues.

Applicants are required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claim 1 is generic.

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6. Applicants are advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Each of the species identified in claims above represents patentably distinct subject matter. In the instant case, those species each involve different structures and modes of action. Therefore, those species involve different patentability and enablement issues.

Moreover, applicants are required for each of the above identified claims 9 and 22, to elect **a single species**, wherein a **definition each type of**: [a] chemical, biological, or biochemical reactions, including any [1] respective corresponding chemical core formulas with functional groups (i.e., e.g. R, R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅ X, Y, etc. and each respective sub-group of any of the chemical formulas defined therein); [2] cellular components; [c] and combinations of chemical , biological or biochemical reactions thereof, etc. should be provided and defined.

For search purposes, applicants also should provide the aforementioned chemical, biological or biochemical reactions, wherein specific chemical core structures, biological cell components, biochemical reaction components, etc., are defined either by picture or by expressing the species in terms of the variables of the formula.

7. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after

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the election, applicants must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

8. Should applicants traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicants should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

9. Applicants are advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

10. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

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Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Grace C. Hsu, Ph.D., J.D. whose telephone number is (703) 308-7005. The Examiner may be reached during normal business hours, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm (EST). A message may be left on the Examiner's voice mail.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Jyothsna Venkat, may be reached at (703) 308-2439. The fax number assigned to Group 1627 is (703) 305-4242. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group 1627 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Grace C. Hsu, Ph.D., J.D.

July 7, 2000

BENNETT CELSA
PRIMARY EXAMINER
[Signature]
[Signature]